



# CAMBRIANS FOR WATER

## C4 H2O

[www.cambriansforwater.com](http://www.cambriansforwater.com)

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California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
Financial Assistance Branch  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236  
Attn: Zaffar Eusuff

Re: Reconsideration of Cambria Community Services District's Proposition 84 Grant Fund Award

Dear Mr. Eusuff,

I am a co-founder of a grass roots community group known as Cambrians for Water ("C4 H2O") which was formed to support the Cambria Community Services District's Emergency Water Supply ("EWS") project, including but not limited to the CCSD's application for a Proposition 84 grant to help defray some EWS project costs. In the six weeks since C4 H2O was formed, the organization has grown to more than six hundred (600) members and continues to expand daily which reflects how important the EWS project is to the relatively small community of Cambria.

Cambrians have been suffering the consequences of water shortages for a decade, if not longer, as reflected by the fact that, historically, we have had among the lowest water consumption rates among California towns and cities. When the current drought hit, Cambrians responded by conserving water even more, reducing water consumption by 40% below our already low level. However, Cambria's conservation efforts have come at considerable cost to the health, safety, economic well-being and quality of life of our community.

Cambrians no longer use any potable water to irrigate landscaping. Some residents pay steep prices for non-potable water (when they can find it) while many of us have simply ceased watering our outdoor plants altogether. The result is not only

aesthetically unappealing, the dead and dry landscaping creates an added fire hazard, which is particularly alarming in a semi-rural area such as ours and during a drought. In addition, many Cambrians have cut back on the number and length of their showers, minimize the number of "flushes" per day and when they do flush, bucket grey water for the purpose. These practices are not only inconvenient but if allowed to persist will threaten the health, safety and well-being of our citizens, many of whom are seniors.

Cambria depends on tourism to fuel its economy. The lack of an adequate and stable potable water supply has already severely impacted local motels and restaurants and promises to shut them down if the present water crisis persists. So, you can see why Cambria so desperately needs the EWS to provide a stable supply of clean drinking water and why so many Cambrians support the project.

It should also be noted that the project does not harm neighboring agricultural and other water users and it is good for the environment. The EWS is "right sized" for Cambria and does not divert potable water from upstream users. The three step reverse osmosis filtration system does not draw sea water directly from the ocean with the concomitant substantial energy demands and waste management issues associated with a direct ocean extraction desalinization system. In fact, the EWS draws brackish water from near the mouth of San Simeon Creek and re-injects treated clean fresh water upstream. When in use, the EWS will produce approximately 100 gpm of mitigation water into the San Simeon Creek lagoons for the enhancement of several natural habitats.

We have reviewed the project above in order to highlight that The CCSD's EWS should be a "poster child" project fitting all the criteria for state and local regulatory approval. Moreover, the project satisfies or exceeds all parameters for Proposition 84 grant funding in the amount of the CCSD's application. While Cambria is committed to construct the EWS, at a cost of \$9M with or without receiving grant funding, Cambria is a small community. The CCSD has fewer than 4,500 customers. Therefore, this grant means a great deal to us. It will help relieve budgetary constraints and will allow us promptly to undertake necessary infrastructure maintenance and improvement that may otherwise need to be deferred.

Thank you for considering this submission, and we hope you will view Cambria's application for grant funding favorably.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Hunter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "H".

Greg Hunter  
Cambrians for Water

cc: Senator William Monning  
Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian